

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01136 081733Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 H-02 AF-06 COME-00 TRSE-00

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R 081321Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9152

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR SC

SUBJ: SUGAR HEARINGS

REF: STATE 141876

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL FROM ST. KITTS SUGAR PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION. BARBADOS' ASSOCIATION BODY IS STILL WORKING ON DATA AND EXPECTS TO PROVIDE RESPONSE BY JULY 8.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR ST. KITTS IS KEYED TO PARA 2 REFTEL QUESTIONS. (PRICES IN US CURRENCY):

(A) 10.6 CENTS PER POUND (EX-MILL); (EXPORT DUTIES AND CHARGES RESULT IN TOTAL PRICE OF 14.4 CENTS/16.)

(B) NO REFINED SUGAR PRODUCED AND SOLE IMPORTER IS LOCAL SOFT DRINK BOTTLER.

(C) 15.5 CENTS PER POUND.

(D) PRODUCTION/EXPORT ESTIMATES:

YEAR	PRODUCT ON	EXPORTS
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1975	24,500	21,260
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1976	30,000	26,500
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01136 081733Z

1977	32,000	28,300
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1978	33,000	29,100
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1979	34,000	29,900
1980	35,000	30,700

(E) NO SPECIFIC CAPITAL INVESTMENTS PLANNED. FACTORY HAS CAPACITY OF 50,000 TONS OF SUGAR WHICH IS MORE THAN CANE SUPPLY IS LIKELY TO REACH IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. FIELD SIDE OF INDUSTRY IS BEING STEADILY REHABILITATED AND IT IS HOPED THAT ENOUGH CANE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN NEAR FUTURE TO YIELD AT LEAST 35,000 TONS.

(F) 1975 - 1976 8 PERCENT BY 1980 5 PERCENT.

(G) JANUARY - JUNE 1975 EEC 7,000 T. JULY 1975 - JUNE 1976 EEC 15,000 T. THEREAFTER EEC 15,000 T. ANNUALLY.

(H) UNDER AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1972 AND STATED TO BE DUE TO EXPIRE IN AUGUST, 1975, GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FINANCING AND RUNNING FIELD SIDE OF INDUSTRY. DURING 1974 ESTATE OWNERS OFFERED TO SELL ESTATES TO GOVERNMENT AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS IN DECEMBER, 1974 WHEN GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED BILL TO ACQUIRE ALL ESTATES AT A PRICE OF US\$5 MILLION. ACT PASSED ON JANUARY 28, 1975, AND SINCE THEN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN POSSESSION AS OWNER. VALIDITY OF ACT IS BEING CHALLENGED IN COURT BUT, WHATEVER RESULT, IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT WILL BE MADE FOR GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO MANAGE ESTATES UNDER SUITABLE TERMS. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO ACQUIRE SUGAR FACTORY. DOMESTIC WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES OF SUGAR ARE CONTROLLED BY LEGISLATION AND ARE WELL BELOW WORLD PRICES AND COST OF PRODUCTION. LOCAL SUGAR RETAILS IN ST. KITTS AT US 7.5 CENTS PER POUND FOR DARK BROWN CRYSTALS AND US 12.5 CENTS FOR WASHED GREYS. EXPORTS ARE ALL MADE BY FACTORY IN CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT. EXPORT LICENSES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL SUGAR EXPORTED FROM ST. KITTS AND THIS IN FACT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF DESTINATIONS, QUANTITIES AND PRICES.
BRITTON

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Message Attributes

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